

Longford Eight Benefice

The Eucharist for Christmas Day

THE GATHERING

God is the creator and redeemer of all.

All O come, let us worship

O little town of Bethlehem *sung by St Martin's Voices –
members of the Choir of St Martin in the Fields.*

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

The Greeting

Grace, mercy, and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All and also with you.

Welcome and Introduction

*Happy Christmas and a very warm welcome to the church of
St Michael & All Angels, Church Broughton for our recorded
Christmas Eucharist.*

*Today we celebrate the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus into this world—
God living among us in flesh and blood.*

*Our carols are provided once again by members of the choir of
St Martin in the Fields, whose wonderful music has been such a
comfort and joy in these days when we cannot sing ourselves.*

The Penitential Rite

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins'.

Therefore, let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the World:

**All Father eternal,
giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

May the God of healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis *is said or sung*

All **Glory to God in the highest,**
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Opening Prayer (Collect)

The president introduces a period of silent prayer, remain standing,

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **All** **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading.

*A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah:
chapter 52 beginning at verse 7.*

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading.

*A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:
chapter 1 beginning at the 1st verse.*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways
by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a
Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also
created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the
exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his

powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

CAROL?

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

All Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
John 1.1-14

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

After the sermon there follows a significant period of silence.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God

**All Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

cf Philipians 2.6-11

Prayers of Intercession

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

Father, at this holy time, your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the body of Christ.

Holy God

All hear our prayer

At this holy time, there was no room for your Son at the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

At this holy time, Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand *N & N [and]* all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

At this holy time, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to *N & N [and]* all who suffer in the sadness of our world

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

At this holy time, the angels sang 'Peace to God's people on earth'. Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in *N & N [and in]* all the world

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

At this holy time, shepherds in the fields hear good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God

All hear our prayer

At this holy time, strangers found the Holy Family and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

At this holy time, heaven is come down to earth and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand *N & N [and]* all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

At this holy time, Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

Father, at this holy time, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph, and all the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9.6*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Offering Hymn

O come, all ye faithful *sung by St Martin's Voices*

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
come and behold him
born the King of Angels.
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light;
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten not created;
O come, let us adore him,

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, ...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, ...

*Translated from the Latin (18th century)
by Frederick Oakely (1802-1880)*

Preparation of the Table

The bread and wine are placed upon the holy table.

The president takes the bread and wine, and says

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share your riches

All Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (B)

The Lord is here

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, ✠
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and
looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of
our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

There will be a few moment's silence

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life
and that life is the light of the world .

**All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Agnus Dei may be said

**All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The president says this invitation to communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

The president and people receive communion.

After Communion

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen.

At the end, the final prayer is said

**All We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

The Blessing

Bow your heads to receive God's blessing

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

May the Father,
who has loved his eternal Son
before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you this children

All Amen.

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,

fill you with joy and peace.

All Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ

All Amen.

and the blessing....

CAROL

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks and praise to God.

Texts from *Common Worship* and *Times and Seasons*
The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2006